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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,366	09/11/2003	Wu-Long Li	089048-0300	2993
22428	7590	09/15/2004	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007			FERGUSON, MICHAEL P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3679	

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/659,366

Applicant(s)

LI, WU-LONG

Examiner

Michael P. Ferguson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kuang (US 6,595,754).

As to claim 1, Kuang discloses a coupling device for connecting a fan blade to a rotatable part of a ceiling fan, the coupling device comprising:

a first part adapted to be connected to the rotatable part **10**;

a second part adapted to be connected the fan blade **12**;

an insert-holding seat **16** that is formed on the first part, that defines a receiving hole extending in a longitudinal direction, and that has a rear end face confining a rear end of the receiving hole and formed with an engaging groove **32** which is in spatial communication with the receiving hole;

a limiting member **22** mounted rotatably on the first part, disposed rearwardly of the insert-holding seat, having a front end face that confronts the rear end face of the insert-holding seat and that is formed with a tongue-arresting groove **30**, and rotatable relative to the insert-holding seat between a first angular position (Figure 5), in which,

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the tongue-arresting groove in the limiting member is angularly offset from the engaging groove in the insert-holding seat, and a second angular position (Figure 7), in which, the tongue-arresting groove in the limiting member is registered with the engaging groove in the insert-holding seat; and

an insert **36** formed on the second part and having an engaging tongue **38**, the insert being insertable into the insert-holding seat in such a manner that the engaging tongue extends through the receiving hole and into the tongue-arresting groove when the limiting member is disposed at the first angular position so as to permit co-rotation of the insert with the limiting member between the first and second angular positions, the engaging tongue being extendible into the engaging groove in the insert-holding seat and being disengageable from the tongue-arresting groove when the insert co-rotates with the limiting member to the second angular position, the engaging tongue being restrained by the limiting member from moving out of the engaging groove in the longitudinal direction when the engaging tongue is disengaged from the tongue-arresting groove and the limiting member is moved from the second angular position to the first angular position (Figures 2 and 5-8).

As to claim 2, Kuang discloses a coupling device wherein the limiting member **22** includes an operating lever **42** projecting outwardly therefrom, the coupling device comprising a spring-mounting seat **26** mounted securely on the first part, disposed rearwardly of the limiting member, and including a cylindrical casing that receives the limiting member therein and a curved segment that projects axially from the curved segment of the spring-mounting seat abutting against the operating lever to stop further

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angular movement of the limiting member when the limiting member is restored from the second angular position (Figure 7) to the first angular position (Figure 8).

As to claim 3, Kuang discloses a coupling device comprising an urging member **28** mounted on the spring-mounting seat **26** for urging constantly the limiting member **22** to move from the second angular position (Figure 7) to the first angular position (Figure 8).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure. The following patents show the state of the art with respect to coupling devices:

Pearce (US 4,396,352), Monroe, III et al. (US 5,108,260) and Wu (US 6,719,531) are cited for pertaining to devices having an insert-holding seat and an insert.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Ferguson whose telephone number is (703)308-8591. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (703)308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


MPF
09/13/04



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